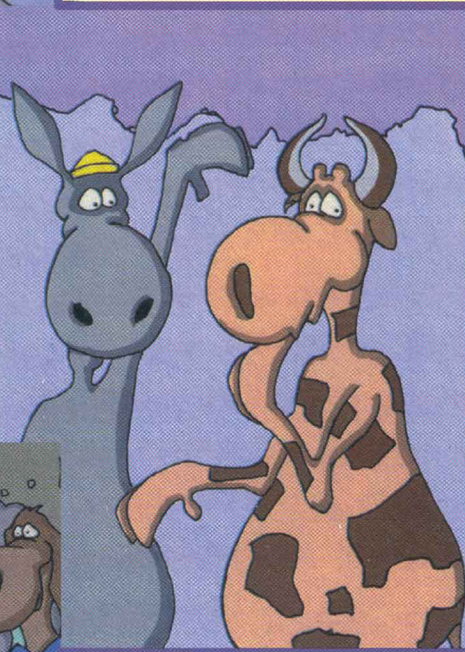
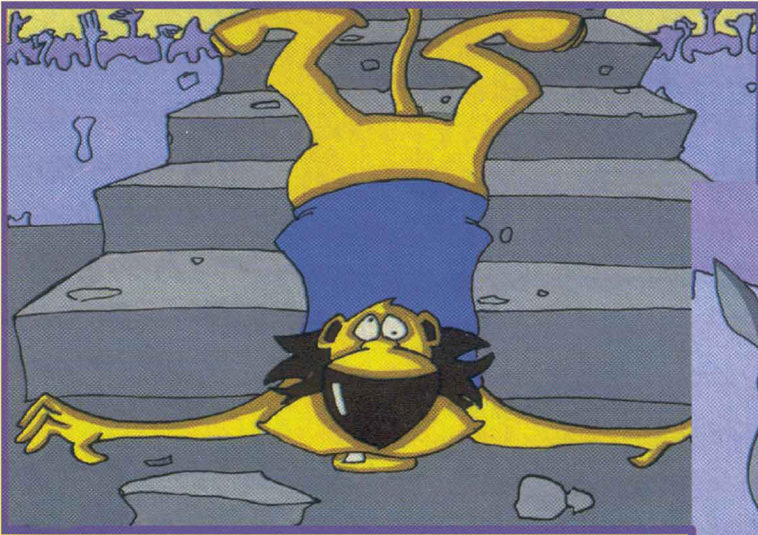




Animal Olympic 3

Who was number one?



Created by
Steve Moghadam

Animal Kingdom

ANIMAL KINGDOM SERIES

Animal Olympics

Who was Number One?

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Fully Illustrated Book



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WHO WAS NUMBER ONE?

The Olympic Games had started. A feeling of happiness spread throughout the Animal Kingdom.

On this particular day, the scheduled sport was weight lifting. The Old Lion was the ruler of Animal Kingdom. Years ago, he had been a weightlifting champion. Even though he had retired, the champion weightlifter of the day would invite him to lift a weight to begin the competition. He was getting old however, and could not lift a real weight.

They had made a light fake weight for him. It looked just like the real one. Even though everyone knew the difference, they did not speak of it.

The weightlifting competitions were held inside a big tent. A lot of animals had gathered there to see the competition. Raven was the reporter for this sport.

He began his report by saying, "And now we would ask that our Kingdom Ruler, Sir Lion, come to the front to begin the competition. He was once a great weightlifter and he is the true master of this sport."





The old lion was still having trouble with his false teeth and was trying to tighten them with some string stretched over his chin and head. His loose teeth would often jump out of his mouth when he tried to talk.

He was wearing his special weightlifting jersey and felt very proud. He walked towards the game field and the audience started clapping. He waved his hand to thank them.

Mr. Donkey was usually in charge of changing the real weights to fake ones for Lion. He would always do this at the beginning of each competition, but on this particular day he was busy and could not be there. He had asked Cow to do this for him but Cow was not all that intelligent.



In all the excitement, Lion moved toward the weightlifting platform as the crowd cheered. First, he checked his teeth to make sure they were not too loose. He stood behind the weights and looked at the crowd. He proclaimed, “Weightlifting is...a....great sport! The first weight I lifted was my father. It was when my mother hit him with her shoe. My father was unconscious so I had to take him to the hospital. I lifted him and carried him on my shoulder.”

As he tightened the string on his upper false teeth he said, “The second weight I lifted was my wife. It was a day she wanted to ride a donkey. This was not possible because in our kingdom riding a donkey is banned. I myself had to play the part of the donkey and carry her around....”

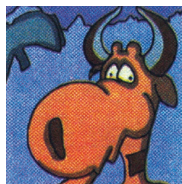
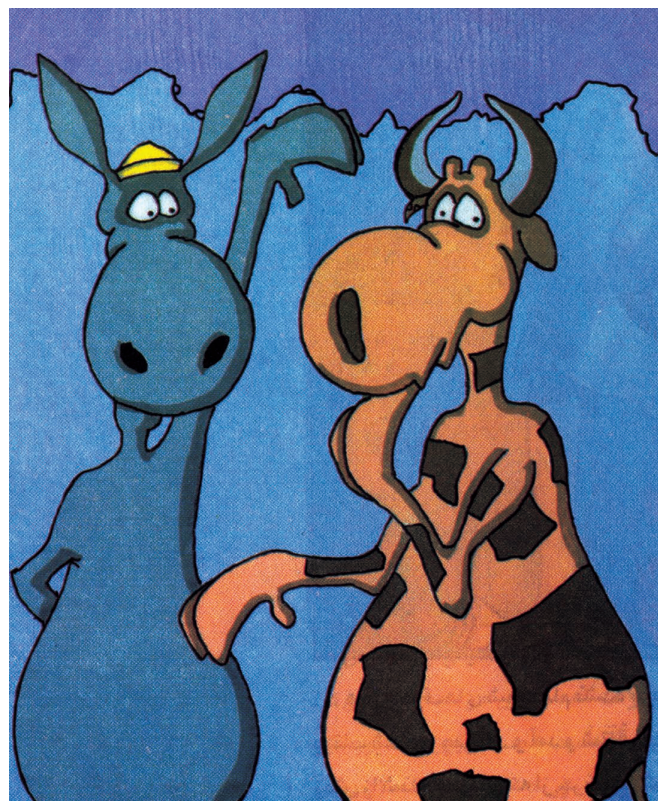
Lion was in the middle of this little speech about his early weight-lifting days when suddenly, something from the audience hit his head. He realized it was a shoe, not just any shoe, but his wife’s. His wife was tired of his speech and this was her way of telling him to stop.

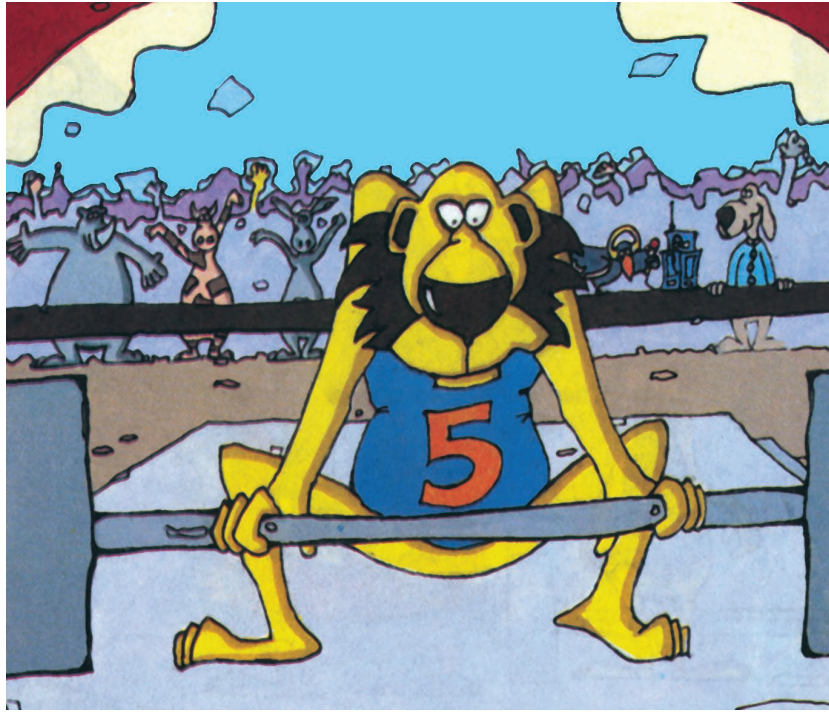
Lion rubbed the bump on his head and said, “I really love this shoe. This is my mum’s shoe that she gave to my wife. Being a weightlifter....I owe these shoes....”

At this point, his wife shouted from the middle of the audience, “My dear, don’t talk too much. It’s not good for your heart.”

Lion realized that he should stop talking and he whispered to himself, “Oh..oh..again, I ruined everything. When I go home, God knows what will happen to me.”

Lion ended his speech and stood behind the weights. He made a special pose like a powerful weightlifter. He focused on the weights. Slowly, he bent over and grabbed the middle of the bar with his two hands.





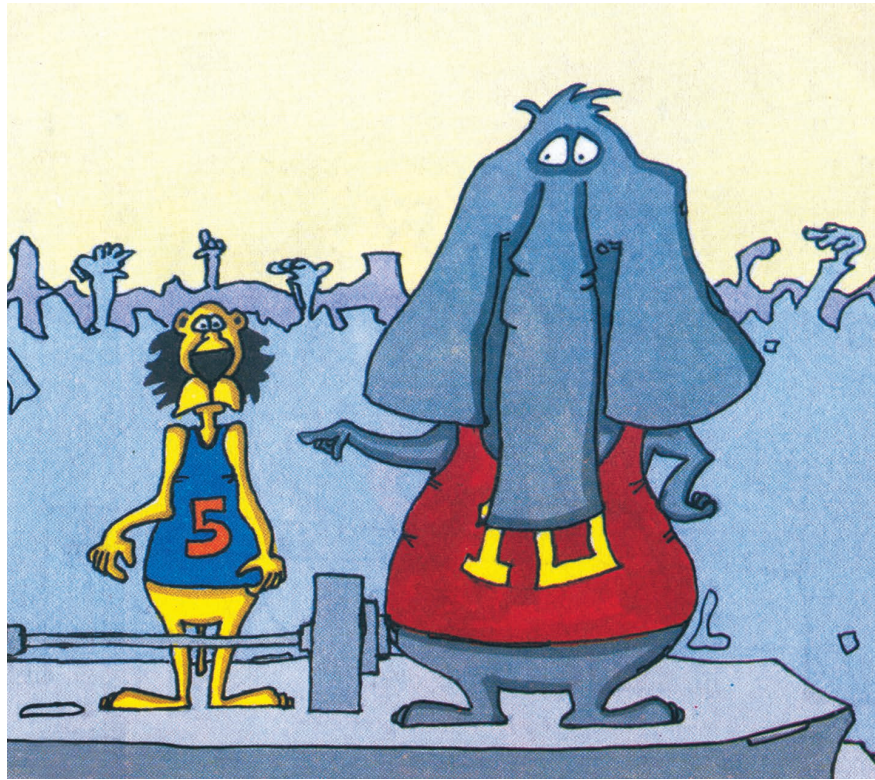
Now Lion was able to lift fake weights easily. He acted as if the weights were real. He made a weightlifting pose thinking that it would fool the audience. He tried to lift the weight but wondered why it was so heavy. He whispered to himself, “What heavy fake weight. Have I become so old that I can’t even lift fake weights? What a pity that my youth is gone now....!”

Again, he tried to lift the weights, “...eeeeee.....eeeeee.....y.....”

Again, he couldn’t lift the weight. He was starting to sweat. He took a tissue from his pocket and wiped the sweat from his head. He squeezed the tissue and put it back into his pocket. Again, he tried to lift, but he couldn’t. He thought that perhaps his teeth were keeping him from focusing. He stood still and tried to keep his cool. He even took his teeth out and put them his pocket.

Again, Lion bent over and grabbed the bar. He tried to force it upward, saying, “What a heavy weight, such a heavy fake weight!” He stood up and thought for a moment. He looked at the audience and said, “Before I lift this weight, I’ll tell you a few words about my third weightlifting experience.”





Elephant, who had been a weightlifting champion understood what was happening, so he leaned over to Cow and said, “Didn’t you change the weights?” Cow replied, “Oh, what a mess! I completely forgot.”

By now, Lion was starting to get back pain from lifting so hard. Elephant quickly went to the platform to help and loudly said, “Your Highness, please tell everyone about the third weight you lifted. You see, this weight was me. Back when I was a chubby elephant, I was playing by the river one day. My foot slipped, and I fell into the river. The river was deep, so His Highness quickly, jumped in and lifted me up as if I were a feather. That day he saved my life.”

Lion knew this was the truth, and he said, “What good old days.”





Elephant continued on, “Now I would like to request that Lion allow us to help with this opening ceremony. We can invite other contestants to come over and help lift the weight to show that we can work together. Will you please let us help you, Your Highness?” Lion, sweating heavily replied, “God bless you, please save me.”

Lion then took his teeth from his pocket and tightened them with the string. Bear, Gorilla, and Rhinoceros came forward, and along with Elephant, they all held the bar and help raise it.

Lion held one hand on the bar and the other on his bad back. Everyone cheered as the weight went up. Lion was distracted by all the cheering, and when they put the weight down, he forgot to let go. He fell to the floor and hit his head.

His teeth went flying everywhere. He tried to stand up, but he was clearly frustrated. As he got up, he said, “What is weightlifting? Who invented this sport, anyway?”



The weightlifting competition started. It was very close, but Elephant came in first.

Gold has no value in Animal Kingdom. The most precious thing in Animal Kingdom is a red rose. After every competition, they put a rose ring around the champion's neck.

Raven the Reporter announced, "We now request that His Highness come over and hand out the prizes."

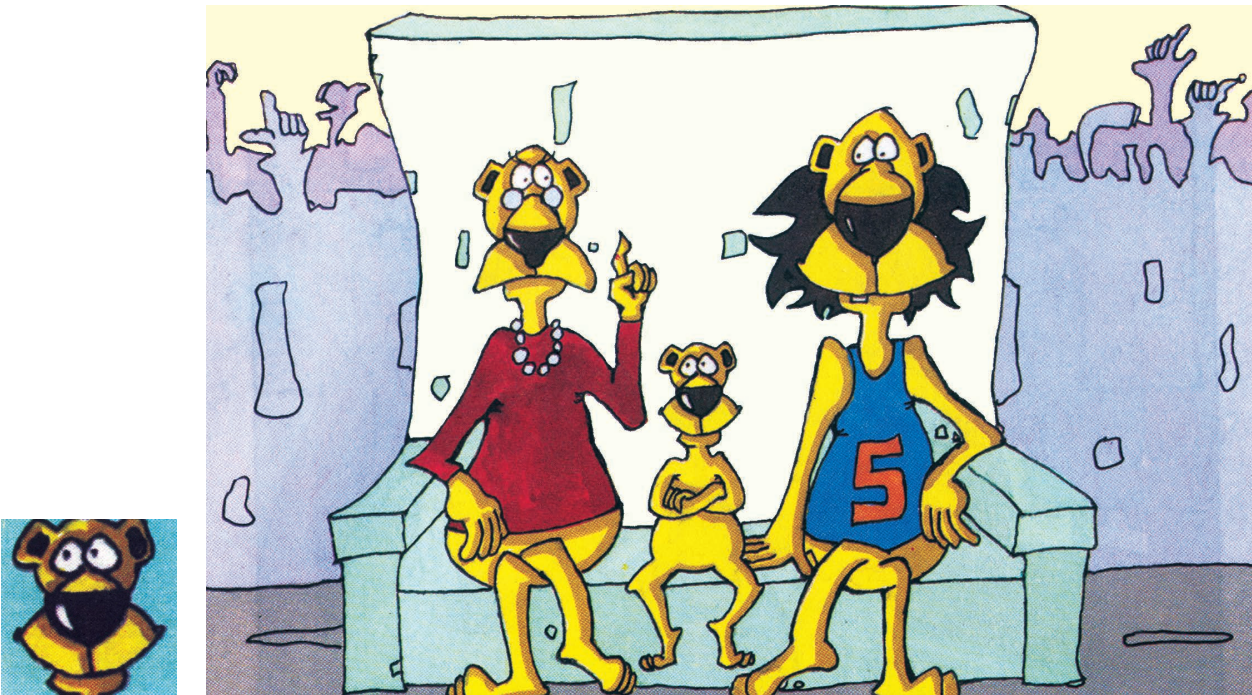
Lion, who was sitting with his wife and son, told his wife, "They just won't leave me alone."

His wife replied, "Be careful what you're saying this time. Don't mention my mother, and when you come back, don't forget my shoe."

Lion said, "Your Mother... wow, I forgot she was the fourth and the heaviest I ever lifted." Lady Lion was so angry; she took her other shoe and hit him saying, "You are insulting my mother..."

She hit him so hard that her shoe broke into two pieces. Lion tried to walk down the stairs but now he felt weak. He lost his balance and fell over. Lady Lion screamed, "Oh my God, what have I done? What shall I do? My shoe is broken."

All the animals were gathered around him not knowing what to do. One of them said, "Let's take him to the hospital." His son, Lion Junior was worried. He lifted Lion onto his shoulder. The other animals cleared the way as he carried his father off.



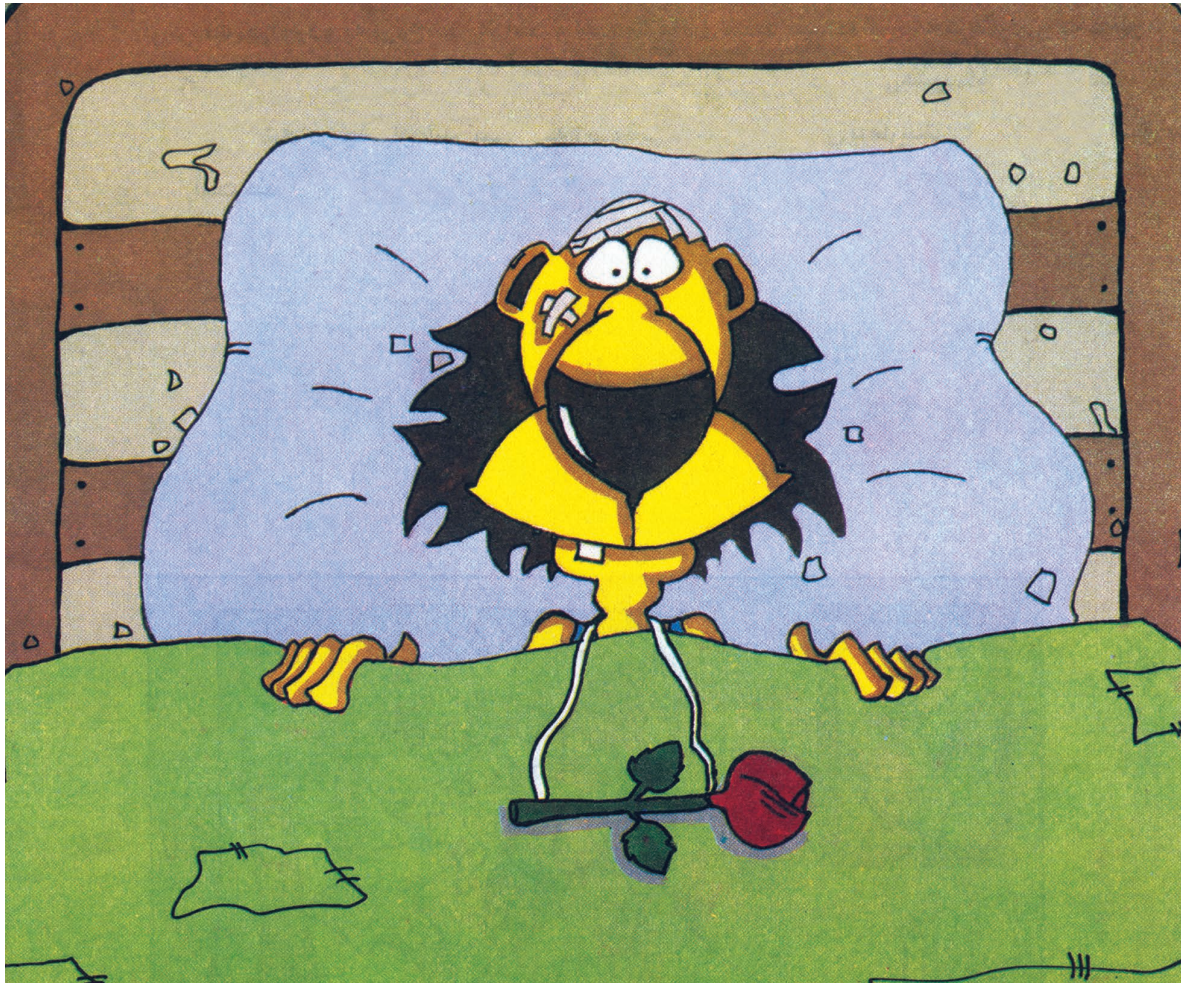


When Lion opened his eyes, he found himself in a hospital bed with his head wrapped in a bandage. All the animals were standing over him, watching.

Lion smiled and said, "Give me my teeth." He put his teeth back in and looked around, but he couldn't see his wife. "Where is my wife?" he asked.

His son replied, "Mother is searching for her shoe, the one she threw at your head during the speech." Cow was standing in the corner and commented, "That shoe made Lion Junior into a weightlifter as well. It was he who lifted you and brought you here."





Lion said, “God bless my father, he was a weightlifter as well.”

Again, everyone laughed. Lion asked, “Who was won the competition? It was Elephant wasn’t it?” Elephant was there. He came closer and put the rose ring he had won around Lion’s neck, saying, “You are number one, the one who carries the weight of responsibility on your shoulders....the responsibility of peace, friendship and freedom, you are number one.”

By now, Lion’s eyes were full of tears. By the time Doctor Goat came in to ask everyone to leave and let Lion rest, all the animals were crying.

